

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8067

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBU: CAIRO OPERA HOUSE

REF: CAIRO A-86

1. AT PRESIDENT SADAT'S RECEPTION FOR KING FAYSAL LAST NIGHT, MINISTER OF RECONSTRUCTION OSMAN SOUGHT ME OUT. AFTER FIRST THANKING ME FOR OUR ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH WESTINGHOUSE AND WAFAL-AMAL PROJECT, HE REFERRED TO WHAT HE CALLED THE "USG OFFER IN THE JOINT DECLARATION TO HELP IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CAIRO'S OPERA HOUSE." OSMAN SAID HE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE JOB OF RECONSTRUCTION AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF HELP WE MIGHT BE WILLING TO GIVE.

2. I SAID THAT WE HAD AGREED IN THAT DECLARATION "TO CONSIDER HOW WE MIGHT ASSIST GOE IN RECONSTRUCTION OF CAIRO'S OPERA HOUSE, " BUT I DID NOT THINK THERE HAD BEEN TIME FOR APPROPRIATE USG AGENCIES TO STUDY THIS MATTER. OSMAN THEN NOTED THAT GOE HAD PREVIOUSLY ENGAGED A GERMAN ARCHITECT (PROFESSOR BORNEMANN), WHO HAD ALREADY PRESENTED SOME SKETCHES. HE, PERSONALLY, WOULD PREFER TO ENGAGE AN AMERICAN ARCHITECT FOR THE JOB. I SAID THAT I HAD BEEN GIVEN A COPY OF BORNEMANN'S SKETCHES AND HAD SENT THEM TO WASHINGTON. I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS UP TO GOE TO DECIDE WHO THE ARCHITECT SHOULD BE. I AGREED TO

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SUBMIT HIS QUERY TO WASHINGTON TO SEE WHAT KIND OF USG

HELP MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN THIS PROJECT.

2. COMMENT: OSMAN'S QUERY BRINGS US TO GRIPS WITH THE QUESTION OF HOW WE MAY BE ABLE TO FULFILL OUR COMMITMENT "TO CONSIDER HOW...TO ASSIST GOE" IN OPERA HOUSE/PERFORMING ARTS CENTER RECONSTRUCTION. I KNOW OF NO OFFICIAL FUNDS THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE FROM AID MONIES FOR EGYPT, ONCE APPROPRIATED. DEPT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER, HOWEVER, WHETHER SOME OF OUR PL 480 EGYPTIAN POUND HOLDINGS MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE. THIS WILL OF COURSE NOT SATISFY THE GOE, WHICH WOULD LIKE DOLLAR HELP ON THE PROJECT. WE MIGHT GAIN A BIT OF TIME TO STUDY THE MATTER FURTHER

IF WE COULD OFFER TO SEND SOME EXPERTS ON THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF MODERN PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS, WHO COULD WORK WITH OSMAN IN DETERMINING EXACTLY WHAT THE EGYPTIANS HAVE IN MIND. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: CAIRO A-86 APPARENTLY STILL EN ROUTE, NOT AVAILABLE IN FADRC.

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